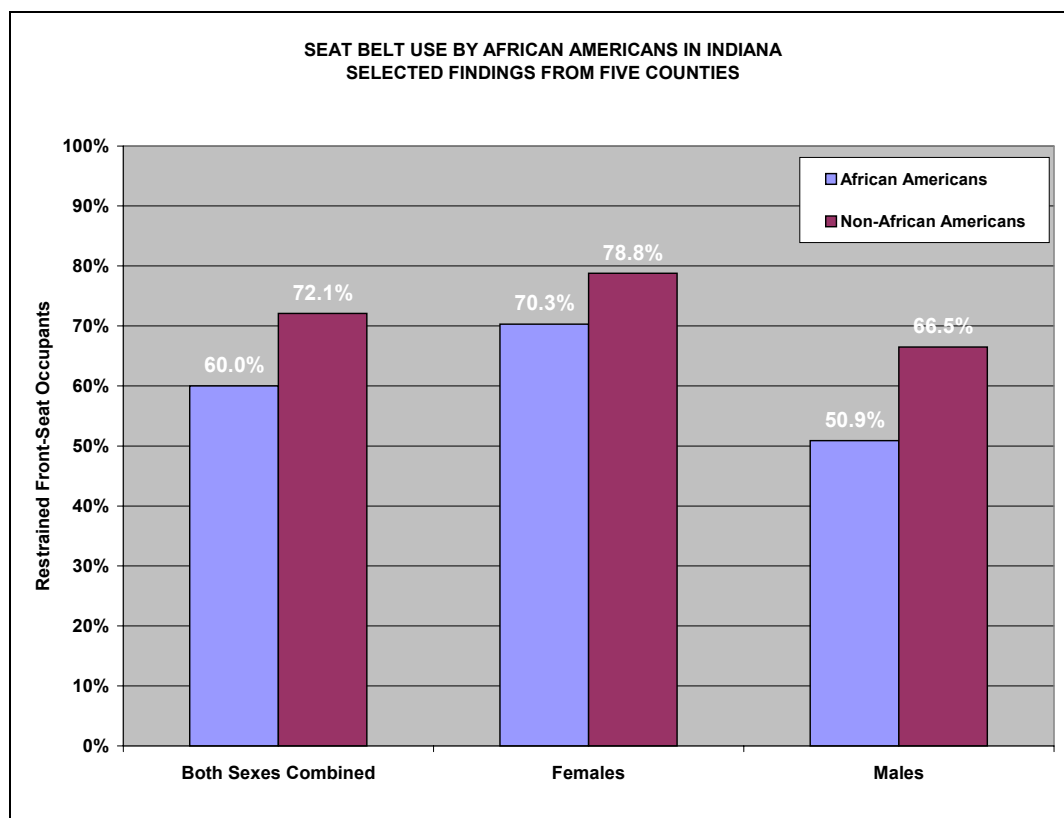


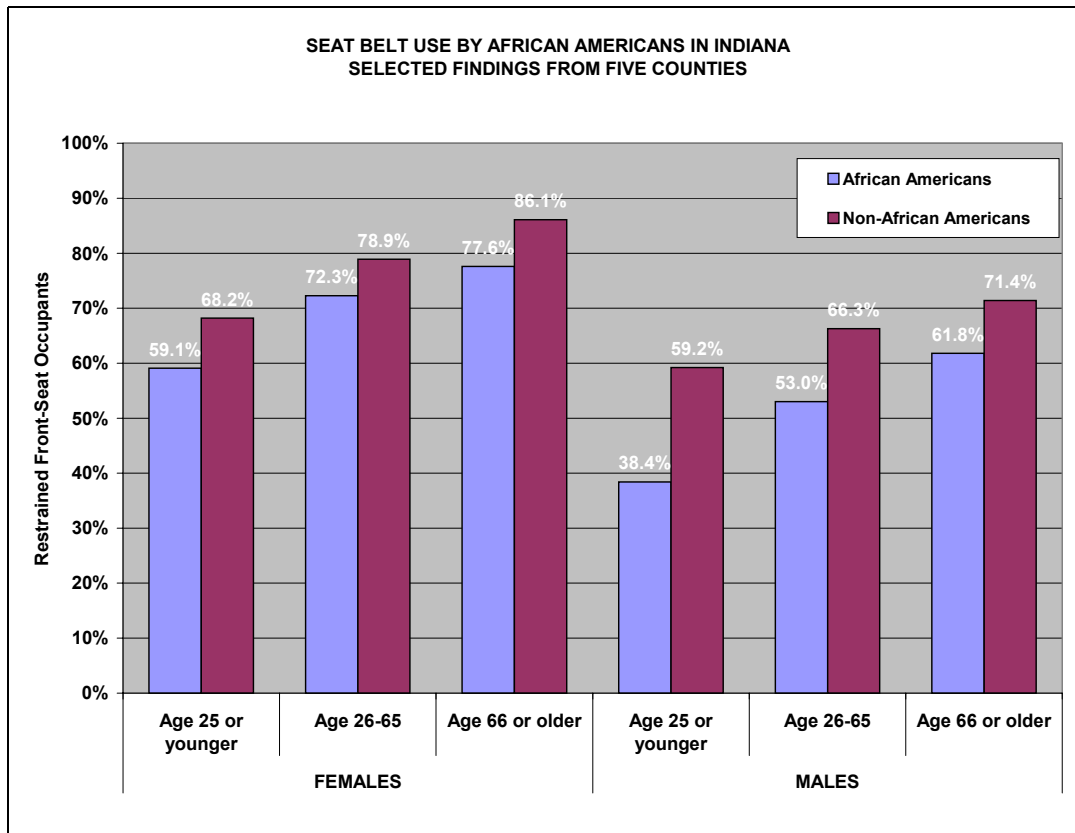
## SEAT BELT USAGE RATES AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS IN INDIANA

Statistics indicate that nationwide African Americans, especially young African American males, are less likely to buckle-up. To help address this vital concern, the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, a division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, formed a partnership with the Indiana Minority Health Coalition to develop a public safety seat belt campaign. Implemented in the late spring and summer of 2000 and 2001, the campaign was specifically tailored to reach African American communities in Indiana. The first step in this project was collecting information on seat belt use by African Americans in communities targeted by the campaign.

Representing northern, central, and southern regions of the state, seat belt use was observed in rural areas and urban centers in five Indiana counties selected for this pilot project -- Elkhart, Marion, St. Joseph, Vanderburgh, and Vigo counties. Excluding a few observations where the race, sex, or age of occupants could not be determined, 4,188 African American and 3,990 non-African American drivers and front-seat passengers were observed. As shown in the graphs, selected findings from the five targeted Indiana counties indicate that:

- Fewer African American occupants than non-African American occupants wore their seat belt.
- Fewer African Americans wore their seat belt, regardless of sex or age. The difference in observed seat belt use was largest among males 25 years of age or younger.





*Note:* A detailed report of study findings titled “Seatbelt Use of African Americans in Indiana: An Observation Study in Five Counties” can be obtained by contacting the Indiana Minority Health Epidemiology Center at (317) 926-4011.